

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8023

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1946

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PFOR DO

SUBJ: DOMINICAN PREMIER CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE

1. ON NOVEMBER 4, IN ADDRESS AT YOUTH RALLY HELD IN CONNECTION WITH CELEBRATION SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMINICA'S ACCESSION TO STATEHOOD (IN ASSOCIATION WITH UK), DOMINICAN PREMIER PATRICK JOHN TRACED STEPS IN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PROGRESS AND PROMISED "FINAL STEP" WOULD BE TAKEN "IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE." ELABORATING ON THIS THEME, HE DECLARED DOMINICA WOULD ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE "EITHER ALONE OR IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEIGHBORING STATES."

2. HAVING BEEN INVITED BY PREMIER TO ATTEND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, I WAS PRESENT AT YOUTH RALLY. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER AFTERWARDS, I INQUIRED RE TIMING AND STATES WITH WHICH DOMINICA MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED IN INDEPENDENCE. IN REPLY, JOHN SAID HE INTENDED GENERAL ELECTIONS BE HELD IN FALL OF 1975 AND HE PROPOSED USE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD FOLLOWING ELECTIONS TO PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR ASSOCIATION WITH LEEWARD ISLANDS (ANTIGUA, ST. KITTS) OVER ASSOCIATION WITH WINDWARDS (GRENADA, ST. VINCENT, ST. LUCIA), BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT, IF NECESSARY, DOMINICA PREPARED TO GO IT ALONE.

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3. COMMENT: WE HAD PREVIOUSLY REGARDED DOMINICA AS LESS

INTERESTED THAN ANY OTHER EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRY (EXCEPT
PERHAPS ST. VINCENT) IN CHANGING PRESENT STATUS. JOHN'S DECLARED
INTENTION TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE, IF NEED BE ALONE, MUST THEREFORE
BE REGARDED AS FURTHER REDUCING ALREADY SLIM HOPE FOR HOLDING
LINE ON CREATION OF MINI-STATES IN THIS AREA.

SIMMS

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, SPEECHES
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Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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